



Covid Vaccine Lab Tech., p.7



Female RE-Enactors, p.12

## County Schools to Reconfigure, Offer Hybrid Format for Spring

by Matthew Arbach

*Este artículo está disponible en español en nuestra página web [www.greenbeltnewsreview.com](http://www.greenbeltnewsreview.com).*

Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) are planning to reopen in April using a hybrid combination of in-person and continued virtual learning, PGCPS CEO Monica Goldson announced on February 17. The plan is to have two days of in-person and three days of virtual learning, as well as students who will have all virtual learning.

Goldson held a virtual press conference on February 17 and a virtual parent town hall the following day to lay out the plan for the coming months.

A survey was sent to parents, to be completed by February 28, to assess the learning preference

for the remainder of the year. Students are not required to return in person, but may opt into the hybrid format.

For the rest of the spring the timeline is:

On March 3, school-based staff may begin teaching virtually from their school classrooms and all central office staff must return to their assigned work locations.

On March 17, all school-based staff must return to schools to teach virtually from their classrooms, in order to prepare for the return of students in April.

Spring break will occur from March 29 through April 5.

April 8 is the start date for Phase One, which begins the hybrid plan for students in pre-K

See **SCHOOLS**, page 8

## Public Hearing on Police CBA Sparks Citizen Involvement

by Matthew Arbach

On February 17, the Greenbelt City Council held a public hearing to allow residents a chance to weigh in with their concerns and suggestions for a forthcoming Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) with the Greenbelt Police Department, using the current CBA as a springboard to possible changes. The final CBA will be the result of review, approval and ratification by council and the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) after representatives of both parties have negotiated. However,

according to attorney Stephen Silvestri of Jackson Lewis, P.C., head of the city's negotiating team, the public will be privy to the draft before that final vote, to give their final comments.

It was the consensus of the meeting that this collective bargaining process be as open and transparent as possible. Resident Bill Orleans asserted that this should be the case with any organized group of city employees.

See **POLICE**, page 9

## ERHS Grad Is Named ESPN Hoops Player of the Week

by Haley Kerby

Greenbelt native Octavia Jett-Wilson was named the February 16 ESPN National Player of the Week, after averaging 38 points in two basketball games the week prior.

Jett-Wilson, 21, played on the girls varsity basketball team at Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS). She also trained with Greenbelt's "hometown hero" and coach, Brian Butler at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center. Graduating with the ERHS class of 2017, Jett-Wilson now plays with the women's basketball team at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

This national player of the week title makes Jett-Wilson the first player in the university program's 46-year history to earn the honor. This was her fourth athletic honor in the same week, having been voted this past Monday as Conference USA co-Player of the Week, College Sports Madness High-Major National Player of the Week and Conference USA Player of the Week.

Jett-Wilson broke various records in the two games against Old Dominion University on Wednesday, February 10 and



PHOTO COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Octavia Jett-Wilson

Saturday, February 13. Her most exciting game was on Wednesday, a game that went into a gripping double overtime. She scored a career-high 42 points in a single-game, just one of four 40-plus points in a single game in program history. This game also

moved her past the 1,000-point mark in her career, becoming the 25th athlete to accomplish this in the school's history. Also on Wednesday, Jett-Wilson set three single-game school records by making 18 free throws, 21 free throw attempts and 32 field goal attempts.

In an interview with Charlotte's local Fox News sports correspondent, Jett-Wilson said of her reaction to being named ESPN Player of the Week, "I was shocked ... but you know I take it as a blessing for all the hard work I've put in."

Her plans after this year include possibly playing overseas. However, she's keeping her options open while staying focused on her goal for this year of earning a championship victory with her team.

*Haley Kerby is a University of Maryland journalism student writing for the News Review.*

## State Boosts County Vaccine Logistics to Minimal Effect

by Cathie Meetre

On February 24, county Covid-19 vaccination statistics still lag all other state jurisdictions. At approximately 6.8 percent of its population vaccinated (62,125 shots) Prince George's County remains well behind the next nearest contender (Charles County at 8.7 percent). Rural Kent County is nearly 22 percent vaccinated, while Montgomery County (~134,000 first shots given), with 1.2 million residents compared to Prince George's 900,000 popu-

lation, is at around 13 percent. Overwhelmingly urban, economically challenged (more than double the rate of families living in poverty in Prince George's County) and with about the same distribution by race, Baltimore City (~63,000 first shots given) nonetheless outpaces Prince George's in total shots given as well as in the percentage having received their first dose (10.7 percent).

See **VACCINE**, page 8

## Covid-19, Cold Weather May Be Culprits in the Increase of Crime

by Kathleen Gallagher

*Este artículo está disponible en español en nuestra página web [www.greenbeltnewsreview.com](http://www.greenbeltnewsreview.com).*

Noting that violent crime appears to be up in a number of areas in the city, Mayor Colin Byrd said he had asked Chief of Police Richard Bowers to update the Greenbelt City Council at the February 22 regular meeting. He said he hoped to find out how the city has been addressing it and whether there are other things that can be done.

Bowers said crime had indeed increased and was up across the board. He said the ones that stood out were the four homicides, three of which were in Franklin Park and one in Green-

briar. He noted there were small increases in theft, as well as in burglary, assault and robberies. Overall the increase was about 7 percent from 2019 to 2020, with violent crime making up 16 percent of all the crime in the city.

Over the same period, in Old Greenbelt crime overall went down 13 percent, with violent crime decreasing by 68 percent. In Greenbelt West, crime overall went up by 38 percent, with violent crime increasing by 73 percent and property crime increasing by 23 percent. In Greenbelt East, overall crime went up by 19 percent and crime against property went up by 21 percent.

See **CRIME**, page 8

### Franklin Park Water Main Under Repair

The city reported water main break repairs underway in Franklin Park. According to the Greenbelt City Facebook page, there is ongoing repair work for a water main under Breezewood Drive. The work is currently scheduled to last from Tuesday, February 23 through Friday, February 26 from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.

The repair work may interrupt water supply in nearby buildings, specifically 6108 through 6120 Breezewood Drive and 6019 through 6115 Breezewood Court. Residents with additional questions are encouraged to contact Franklin Park resident services at [residentservices@franklinparkliving.com](mailto:residentservices@franklinparkliving.com).

### What Goes On

**Monday, March 1**  
**8 p.m.** City Council Worksession: Forest Preserve/Community Gardens  
**Wednesday, March 3**  
**8 p.m.** Council Worksession: Comcast (Stakeholder)

All council meetings are virtual. See the meetings calendar at [greenbeltnmd.gov](http://greenbeltnmd.gov) for agendas and information on public participation in these meetings.



PHOTO COURTESY GREENBELT POLICE DEPARTMENT

On Saturday, February 20, the ladies of the K9 Too Motor-cycle Club stopped by to donate some stuffed animals for officers to pass out to children while on patrol. Pictured are members Dye-Namiq, Chilly, Kasualty and Fine Print, along with Captain Gordon Pracht.



## One Year On

The News Review is keeping on keeping on. We miss seeing our readers. We miss seeing our colleagues in the office but we still like writing the articles, finding the news and getting the paper put together. We've found ways to tether our ties to each other, via email chains and messages. We wish our pictures showed more of people's faces, but of course we're all covered up with masks. As we hit the one-year mark of Covid-19, we'd like to hear from you. What are you doing differently? How do you find joy? Is there anything you couldn't imagine a year ago, that is now normal? Send us your thoughts and (high rez) photos: [editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com).

## Letters to the Editor

### A Request

Pastor Reverend Ray Raysor, minister for blind and disabled, is seeking donations for 10 electronic bibles for blind congregants. Each electronic bible will cost \$40. If you are willing to donate the money for purchase of a bible for a blind congregant, please send a check made out to Reverend Ray Raysor, World of God Community Church Disability Cares Ministry, 6005 Springhill Drive, Unit 201, Greenbelt, MD 20770. Indicate electronic bible in the memo section. Thank you!

Susan Walker of GILA

### Thanks from Mowatt

Many thanks to all who participated in the Mowatt MUMC Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Your overwhelming generosity made it worth the extra effort to ensure that our church is alive and well. Thank you. Greenbelt is Great!

Ellen Noll  
Lay Leader, Mowatt MUMC

### More USPS Woes

Thank you for your efforts. I'm adding to the oddities experienced with USPS:

1. Inbound – A double order of gift cards from WV State Parks: Order placed December 18, 2020; the first card was received timely in December, but I had to contact WV State Parks early in February for a replacement of the second card. The original second card then arrived a few days later in mid-February!

2. Outbound – A package with Valentine's Day chocolates was sent to Providence Forge, Va., at the end of January. Others sent at the same time arrived timely, but this one was received on February 17.

Also, for reference, I learned when speaking with a postal worker at the Greenbelt Post Office that it's hard for them to find employees. I guess that there aren't so many applications anymore.

Sue Stern

### And More . . .

Thank you for the opportunity to let off steam. I submit three USPS tales of woe.

I did not know the News Review board of directors sent holiday greetings letters to staff until my neighbor Kathleen, who also volunteers at the paper, told me how much she liked her holiday letter and asked what I thought about it. "What letter? I didn't get one." Had I been naughty or not nice?

On January 15, my holiday greetings from the board arrived. Both Kathleen's and my holiday letter had been postmarked December 17 by the Greenbelt Post Office. Hers was delivered

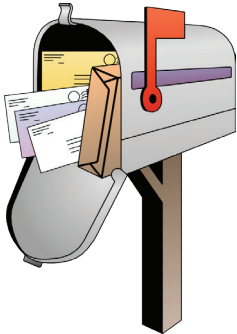
before Christmas but mine did not arrive until January 15, about a month later. How could this happen when we live across the street from each other. Does she live on the sunnier side, as the song goes?

Late delivery of mail also caused me to be sent late notices from two businesses. When Comcast informed me my account was past due, I called them, and, to add insult to injury, the robot ran out of options and said, "Thank you. Goodbye," before hanging up on me – twice. Consumer Cellular notified me that my bill due January 13 was past due. I had mailed payment to them (in Pittsburgh) on January 4, from inside the Greenbelt Post Office.

Sue Krofchik

P.S. I thought the holiday greetings letter was delightful. Thank you, Kathleen, for letting me borrow yours.

P.P.S. The Comcast bill I received today included credit for the extra payment I paid in order to assure my services would not be cut off.



## Se Habla Español

Vaya a nuestra página web [greenbeltnewsreview.com](http://greenbeltnewsreview.com) para ver artículos en español.



See our website, [greenbeltnewsreview.com](http://greenbeltnewsreview.com), for articles in Spanish.

## ¿Qué tal nos va con los artículos en español?

En Greenbelt News Review nos gustaría saber si usted lee los artículos traducidos al español que se publican cada semana en el sitio web de Greenbelt News Review. Tenemos un excelente equipo de traductores bilingües, pero no sabemos si tenemos lectores. Si lee las traducciones en español, por favor mándenos una nota (en inglés o español) a [editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com). ¡Gracias!

We at the Greenbelt News Review would like to know if you read the Spanish translations that are posted every week on the Greenbelt News Review website, [greenbeltnewsreview.com](http://greenbeltnewsreview.com). We have a crack team of bilingual translators but we don't know if we have any readers. If you use the Spanish translations would you please leave us a note (in English or Spanish) at [editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com).



An undaunted man with an umbrella walks beneath the tall trees at the Lake.

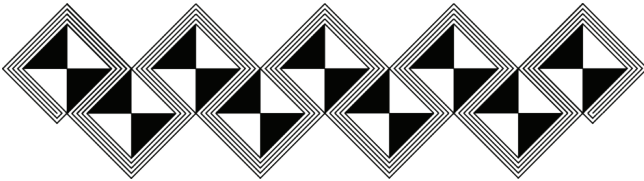
PHOTO BY MARA HEMMINGER

## Service or Garden Side?



We are just taking it easy right now.

B. Glee



## Letters Policy

The News Review reserves the right not to publish any letter submitted. Letters are considered accepted when published.

All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider withholding the name upon request.

All letters are subject to editing for reasons of space, libel, privacy, taste, copyright and clarity.



# Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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### PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

- Monday 2 p.m. All Letters to the Editor (300 word limit), Articles/photos over 700 words, Display Ads (not camera ready).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified Ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.  
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 6 - 8 p.m.  
Office is currently closed to the public. Please phone or email.  
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the municipal building.



# Community Events

## GATe Shows Film On Wangari Maathai



Wangari Maathai, Nobel Peace Prize winner, is this week's movie topic.

Wangari Maathai is a name everyone should be familiar with, like Gandhi. For like Gandhi, she started a revolutionary movement that had enormous impact in both her country and the world over. An award-winning film on her life, *Taking Root: The Vision of Wangari Maathai*, is to be shown on the GATe television channel every day of next week, the transition between Black History month and Women's History month.

Born in the then British colony of Kenya, Maathai grew up in a land exploited for its natural resources. As the British were being forced out, she received a Kennedy Scholarship privately funded and as part of the early Peace Corps program. She and other East Africans, including Barack Obama's father, came to the U.S. to study, where she earned both a bachelor's and a master's degree in science.

She returned to Kenya and earned her Ph.D., becoming the first East African woman to achieve that. She eventually became president of the University of Nairobi.

Kenya had been denuded of its vegetation, its soil eroded from decades of timber exports and intensive agriculture that included vast tea plantations. Maathai started the Green Belt movement, which consisted of organizing poor people, mostly women and children, to collect local seeds and restore the forests. Her work ultimately earned her a Nobel Peace prize.

## Spring Activity Guide Now Available Online

Greenbelt Recreation's spring classes and special events are online via the Virtual Recreation Center. Go to [greenbeltmd.gov/recreation](http://greenbeltmd.gov/recreation) to access a wide range of online activities, including classes, video tutorials, sing-alongs and more. Art activities can be accessed in the Visual Arts section of the Virtual Recreation Center.

## Arts Advisory Board Meets on March 2

The Greenbelt Arts Advisory Board will meet on Tuesday, March 2 at 7 p.m. on Zoom. The primary topic of discussion will be a review of Fiscal Year 2022 Recognition Group applications from Greenbelt arts organizations. To request a meeting link, write to [ndewald@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:ndewald@greenbeltmd.gov) or call 301-474-8000 Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

## At the Library

The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) launches a month-long celebration of women's history in March with a special virtual appearance by world-renowned choreographer, director and creative visionary Laurieann Gibson on Wednesday, March 3 at 7 p.m. Gibson will discuss her new book, *Dance Your Dance: Eight Steps to Unleash Your Passion and Live Your Dream*, with C. Lorenzo Evans III of American University and Washington Performing Arts. Known for her choreography and creative direction for megastars like Alicia Keys and Beyoncé, Gibson has a massive international following that reaches across generations.

### Library Services

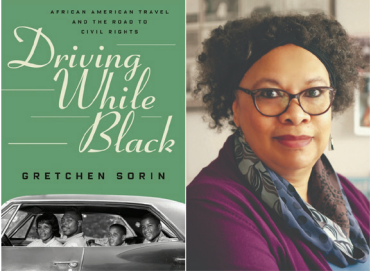
Curbside service is available Tuesdays through Fridays, 1 to 6 p.m. and Saturdays, 1 to 5 p.m. Customers may place new hold requests via the PGCMLS catalog ([catalog.pgcmpls.info/polaris](http://catalog.pgcmpls.info/polaris)) or Ask a Librarian Telephone Reference service at 240-455-5451. Call 301-699-3500 and ask for Public Services or use the link at [pgcmpls.info/contact-us](http://pgcmpls.info/contact-us) for assistance.

The library is not accepting book donations for the foreseeable future. Customers can place donations in the third-party book donation bin; do not place donations outside the bin if it is full.

All Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) students have access to the library's online resources with their LINK card number. Adults may register for a free virtual library card or renew an existing card at [pgcmpls.info](http://pgcmpls.info).

Biblio Consulta. The Library's Spanish language call center is available at 240-455-5451 (press option 2) Tuesdays through Fridays, 1 to 6 p.m. and Saturdays, 1 to 5 p.m.

## Black History Dems Meet Sunday



The Eleanor & Franklin Roosevelt February club membership meeting will celebrate Black History Month this Sunday, February 28 at 3 p.m. on Zoom. To learn what the Zoom link is go to [rooseveltclub.com](http://rooseveltclub.com).

For those attending, the club will have a quiz, a brief history lesson focused on African American women, and a discussion of the 2015 comedy film "Driving While Black" starring Dominique Purdy, Sheila Tejada and John Mead. The film is available on YouTube. Try to view it before the meeting so as to provide reaction to the film.

Those who are called on and answer any of the questions correctly will receive a calendar created by the Soul School Institute located in Baltimore, which features important Black women in our nation's history. A few sample questions: Who was the first person killed at the Boston Massacre? Who was the second African American baseball player to play in the major leagues? Who was the first African American person elected to the U.S. Senate? Name three great graduates of Howard University Law school. (One of the three must be a current member of the Maryland State Legislature's House of Delegates serving the 22nd legislative district).

For any questions, contact Konrad Herling at 301-345-9369.

## Saturday Food Distribution

On Saturday, February 27, from 10 a.m. to noon, Holy Cross Lutheran Church will be giving away bags of food to 60 families in the community. Bags will be given away on a first come basis. Call 301-345-5111 if you wish to contribute, or to sign up to receive food. The church is at 6905 Greenbelt Road.

## Impact of Invasives Zoom Meeting Sunday

On Sunday, February 28 at 7 p.m. Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll, the city environmental coordinator, will speak about native and invasive plant species. The program will discuss these plants' impact on the environment and how to get involved, in one's yard or beyond. This program is geared toward both experienced gardeners and outdoors folks, who may want to share some experiences with curious beginners. Winter is a great time to remove invasive species. Questions and suggestions from participants are welcome and encouraged.

This environmental Zoom series is sponsored by the Green Teams of Greenbelt Community Church, UCC and the City of Greenbelt.

RSVP to Jane Young at [gccjane@aol.com](mailto:gccjane@aol.com) for Zoom information. Give a username as it will appear in Zoom or a phone number if calling in.



## Beltway Plaza Holds Black History Events

On Saturday, February 27 from 2 to 4 p.m., Beltway Plaza will host music by The Tribe, featuring soul and rhythm and blues, at the TJ Maxx entrance.

Also on Saturday, February 27 is the book launch and signing for children's author Janael Palmer's new book, *Nubian Dynasty: A Celebration of Black Love and African Heritage*.

Now through Sunday, February 28, enter to win a \$500 Beltway Plaza shopping spree. Enter online at [beltwayplazamall.com](http://beltwayplazamall.com) or at various locations in the mall.

### Valentine Contest

Now through Sunday, February 28, Beltway Plaza is hosting a Valentine's Day Contest. Submit a video or still photograph on Instagram showing the Most Creative Valentine's Proposal, the Funniest Valentine's Day Message or Favorite Valentine's Day Crush. The winner in each category will receive a \$100 gift card.

Winners will be chosen by March 1. Enter on Instagram at: [#bpmvdaycontest](https://www.instagram.com/bpmvdaycontest); [instagram.com/beltwayplaza/mall/](https://www.instagram.com/beltwayplaza/mall/).

## Toastmasters Meet Online Wednesdays

Those interested in improving communication or leadership skills are invited to join the Greenbelt Toastmasters Club online or by phone every first, third and fifth Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Find details for joining remotely at [greenbelt.toastmastersclubs.org](http://greenbelt.toastmastersclubs.org).

Drop us a Line!

Electronically, that is.

[editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com)

GATe

2021 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Sunday March 21 at 3pm on ZOOM

GREENBELT ACCESS TELEVISION, INC.

CONNECT WITH GATe ON



This year we will be hosting our Annual Membership Meeting online.

To receive a link or phone number to join us on ZOOM please email:

[greenbeltaccess@gmail.com](mailto:greenbeltaccess@gmail.com)

We will be voting on three Board Member positions. Members will receive a link to vote for candidates the day before the meeting. Nominations will be open until March 14 at 3pm.



ROSE AWARD

for best Greenbelt Community Video



The 2020 Winner of GATe's Annual Rose Award for Best Greenbelt Community Video will be announced during the Annual Meeting!

WATCH US on VERIZON Fios 19 or COMCAST 77

FIND OUR PROGRAM SCHEDULE at [www.greenbeltaccessstv.org](http://www.greenbeltaccessstv.org) by clicking on Channel

GAC online

GREENBELT ARTS CENTER

Solomon and Marion

by Lara Foot Newton, directed by Ann Lowe-Barrett

Online: Saturdays and Sundays, February 27 & 28, March 6 & 7

Suggested donation \$10

Live talkback with the playwright, Sunday, February 28 at 2:30pm

[greenbeltartscenter.org](http://greenbeltartscenter.org)

Coming Soon: Hamless: March 12 - 21

GATe

GREENBELT ACCESS TELEVISION

Friday February 26 - Thursday March 4

TAKE OUR COMMUNITY SURVEY TODAY!

<https://www.greenbeltaccessstv.org/community-survey>

PROGRAM SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

CONNECT WITH GATe ON



7 am	Greenbelt Newsreel	• Black History Month • Through Feb 28
8 am	Democracy Now!	• Repeat of Yesterday's Program
9 am	Utopia Festival Film ★ Selected Documentary	• Taking Root: The Vision of Wangari Maathai Directed by Lisa Merton
10 am	Music at the New Deal Café	• Mojo Priests Award Winning Blues Band
11 am	Greenbelt Newsreel	• or Selections from the GATe Archive
12 pm	Democracy Now!	• Today's Syndicated Program
1 pm	Science Bowl PGCPs	• Elementary Competition Pointer Ridge v Whitehall
2 pm	Greenbelt Newsreel	• Black History Month • Through Feb 28
3 pm	Utopia Festival Film ★ Selected Documentary	• Taking Root: The Vision of Wangari Maathai Directed by Lisa Merton
4 pm	Music at the New Deal Café	• Mojo Priests Award Winning Blues Band
5 pm	Science Bowl PGCPs	• Elementary Competition Pointer Ridge v Whitehall
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WATCH US on VERIZON Fios 19 or COMCAST 77

STREAMING LIVE at [www.greenbeltaccessstv.org/channel-live-stream](http://www.greenbeltaccessstv.org/channel-live-stream)



# Obituaries

## Edward Wrenn



Ed Wrenn

Edward Wayne Wrenn died on December 11, 2020 from congestive heart failure. He was a longtime resident of Greenbelt.

He was born in Maryland and served in the U.S. Air Force from 1972 to 1976 and was stationed at Upper Hayfield Air Force Base in England where he was part of Air Force Security. He was then stationed at Homestead Air Force Base in Florida where he was a photographic specialist.

Upon returning home, he worked as a sales specialist and then became a carpenter.

Ed is survived by his daughter Hayley Osti, son-in-law Chris Osti and grandson Ryon Osti. He is also survived by his sister Sharon Paczkowski and his cousins Elaine Miller, Buzz Miller, Abbey Miller, Molly Miller, Juli Canavan, Thomas Canavan, Miles Canavan and many extended family members and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents Edward Dickenson Wrenn and Eloise Babbitt.

The family hopes to have a celebration of life for Ed once Covid-19 restrictions have lifted.

## Alto Bell

Alto Wallace Bell died in Greenbelt on February 3, 2021, two days shy of his 98th birthday. He was the youngest of three siblings, born in Enterprise, Ala. His parents were early day entrepreneurs; Allie Bell ran a café decorated in car license plates and Josie Bell was a bail bondsman, sandlot baseball team owner and employment manager all rolled into one.

Mr. Bell attended Coffee County Training Center and after graduating, he enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1943 as a medical technician and was stationed in Hawaii. Mr. Bell served in World War II, earning the World War II Victory medal, the Asian Philippines Theater of Operations medal and the Good Conduct medal. After three years, he separated from service and enrolled in Tuskegee Institute (now University) where he became a bricklayer apprentice after graduating in 1951. For more than 40 years, Mr. Bell worked as a skilled and accomplished brick mason. A life member of the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craft Workers of America, he constructed buildings, including homes, in Florida, and throughout the South, Midwest and Northeast regions of the United States, including Maryland, Indiana and Ohio.

Mr. Bell also set the cornerstone in 1979 for Second Missionary Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Fla., where he was a member since 1967. Six years later, he was ordained a deacon and faithfully served for more than 30 years. In the 1970s, Mr. Bell also co-chaired the church's 123rd anniversary and was crowned Father of the Year. In addition to these activities, he sang in the James Carl Sams



Alto W. Bell rides in style in the 2015 Greenbelt Labor Day Parade.

Men's Choir and was a member of the Brotherhood, Sunday School and Training Union. Active in the community, Mr. Bell joined the Jacksonville Community Posse, a volunteer police force, and completed training in criminal justice at Florida Community College. Also, a 33 degree mason, Mr. Bell was a member of the Royal Arch and Blue Masonic Lodges. For the Tillman Valentine Consistory No. 2, he served as High Priest, Prince of the Year, Minister of State and Commander in Chief.

In 2015, Mr. Bell moved to Greenbelt to live with his daughter Altoria Bell Ross; here he rode a fire engine in the Labor Day parade, attended Greenbelt Community Church and participated in activities of the Golden Agers and the Senior Nutrition Program.

He is survived by his children Gary Wallace Bell, Kathryn Mitchell (Joe), Bobby Bell (Alicia), Allie Marie Bell-Riddick (David), Altoria Bell Ross and Debra Bell (Sam); children of the heart Theodore E. Ross, Jr. and Mary Jackson; grandchildren Stephanie Davis (James), Joey

Mitchell (T. Steele), Renee Wilson, Denise Bell (Johnny), Yvonne Barrios (Anibal), Angela Bell, Chasity Bell and Joshua Ross; and many great-grandchildren.

Visitation for Alto W. Bell will take place at Gasch's Funeral Home, P.C., on Tuesday, March 2, from noon to 4 p.m. with burial at Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery on March 3.

– Altoria Bell Ross



Condolences to friends and family of Alto Bell who died two days short of his 98th birthday. In 2015, he moved to Greenbelt to live with his daughter Altoria Bell Ross, who is a former staff member of the News Review. He took an active part in his newly adopted community.

Our sympathies also to the family and friends of Edward Wrenn, who died in December.

Share your accomplishments, milestones and news in the Our Neighbors column. Send details of your news items to [editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com).



CATHOLIC COMMUNITY of GREENBELT

During the pandemic, we gather VIRTUALLY for Liturgy of the Word Sundays, 10:00 a.m.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

For ZOOM link: [FDeBernardo@aol.com](mailto:FDeBernardo@aol.com)

## Obituaries

The News Review publishes obituaries of Greenbelt residents, past or present.

You write it or we will if you prefer. We try to include information about participation in various activities and organizations, where the person lived and something about the family. A photograph and service information should be included. There is no charge.

The Bible Says...

### Lent-Week #2

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God  
Romans 3:23



Sunday Worship Services  
10a-11a ONLINE  
[MCFcc.org/online](http://MCFcc.org/online)

## Worship with us at Greenbelt Baptist Church

Biblical  
Confessional  
Reformed  
Gospel Centered

Join us OUTSIDE Sundays at 11:00am/Wednesdays (online) at 7:00pm  
[www.greenbeltbaptist.org](http://www.greenbeltbaptist.org)  
Instagram/Facebook/Youtube

<<101 Greenhill Rd. Greenbelt MD>>  
[www.greenbeltbaptist.org](http://www.greenbeltbaptist.org)  
301-474-4212  
[@GreenbeltBaptist](https://www.instagram.com/GreenbeltBaptist)

Greenbelt Community Church  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
a just world for all

Whoever you are and wherever you are on your Spiritual journey, you are welcome HERE.

1 Hillside Road 301-474-6171 Rev. Curt DeMars-Johnson

Join Us on Facebook Live  
Sunday at 10:15

Picking Up the Cross of Jesus?

## ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

### RETURN TO PUBLIC CELEBRATION

With joy, we return to the public celebration of Mass. Attendance is limited to 100 persons per Mass, all (3 and up) must wear masks. All details available on our website. Mon-Fri 7:15am, Sat 9am; Sat vigil 5pm; Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am  
Confessions Saturday 3pm - 4pm

135 Crescent Rd.  
[www.sthughofgrenoble.org](http://www.sthughofgrenoble.org)

**Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church**  
40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors  
Find us on [facebook.com/mowattumc](https://www.facebook.com/mowattumc)  
301-474-9410

Rev. Fay Lundin, Pastor

In person worship services cancelled for now.  
Live streaming on our Facebook page @mowattumc.  
10 a.m. Sunday mornings

**Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church**  
3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi  
Phone: 301-937-3666 [www.pbuuc.org](http://www.pbuuc.org)

Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community

February 28 10 a.m.  
"No One But Us"

Rev. Russ Savage with Worship Associate John Barr

Connecting in Community - Commitment Sunday with the Stewardship Campaign.  
ONLINE ONLY, streaming information at <http://pbuuc.org/news/>

## Mishkan Torah Congregation



10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770  
Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield

An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.

Friday evening services at 8:00pm  
Saturday morning services at 10:00am  
All services and activities are currently virtual  
For further information, call (301) 474-4223 [www.mishkantorah.org](http://www.mishkantorah.org)  
Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism

"Trustworthiness is the greatest portal leading unto the tranquility and security of the people. In truth the stability of every affair hath depended and doth depend upon it. All the domains of power, of grandeur and of wealth are illumined by its light."

– 'Abdu'l-Bahá



**Greenbelt Bahá'í Community**  
[www.greenbeltbahais.org](http://www.greenbeltbahais.org)



City Notes

In celebration of Black History Month, Museum posts included Greenbelt women visiting a Black-owned cooperative in 1939. Recreation offered a workshop, Enslaved Life and Labor on Maryland Plantations, featuring Female RE-Enactors of Distinction (FREED). Preschoolers learned about black inventors and scientists. Therapeutic Recreation moderated numerous events, including a student Poetry Slam.

City planners, legal counsel and Sustainability/Environmental explored issues concerning the proposed maglev train project and its Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

After multiple unconfirmed cruelty complaints, Animal Control created resources about making proper complaints. Public Works prepared equipment and removed snow. Horticulture/Parks removed downed trees after a car accident. Refuse/Recycling collected 26.18 tons of refuse and 15.36 tons of recyclables. Sustainability/Environmental led 20 volunteers in caging 40 trees and removing invasive vines.

Recreation staff managed storm-related closures, delays and cancellations. Arts offered Afterschool Arts for Springhill Lake Elementary School students.

Park rangers discovered dangling power lines, secured the site and notified Public Works.

Greenbelt Assistance in Living (GAIL) received a \$3,000 grant for food programming.



City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

**VIRTUAL MEETINGS FOR MARCH 1-5**

Monday, March 1 at 8:00pm, **COUNCIL WORK SESSION**  
**re: Forest Preserve/Community Gardens**, Virtual meeting will be shown on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and 996, and Streaming at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv)

Tuesday, March 2 at 7:00pm, **ARTS ADVISORY BOARD** On the Agenda: Review of FY22 Recognition Group applications from Greenbelt arts organizations.

Tuesday, March 2 at 7:00pm, **PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE** On the Agenda: Mayor Byrd's Police Reform Policy

Wednesday, March 3 at 7:00pm, **MAGLEV TASK FORCE**

Wednesday, March 3 at 8:00pm, **COUNCIL WORK SESSION w/Comcast (stakeholder)**, Virtual meeting will be shown on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and 996, and Streaming at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv)

In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email [banderson@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:banderson@greenbeltmd.gov).

This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call 301-474-8000. For information on public participation for the virtual meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at [www.greenbeltmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov).

**VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES**

Volunteer to serve on City Council Advisory Groups. There are currently vacancies on:

- Advisory Committee on Education
- Arts Advisory Board
- Board of Elections
- Senior Citizens Advisory Committee
- SCMaglev Opposition Task Force
- Youth Advisory Committee

**For more information call 301- 474-8000**

**GREENBELT CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

**Desegregating Greenbelt: Family Histories of the Community's First Black Residents**  
**Thursday, February 25; 7:00pm**  
**Register for this event at <https://bit.ly//36SzmCH>**  
Did you know that Greenbelt began as a segregated community? Join the Greenbelt Museum to learn about the community's first residents of color.

**Belly Dancers of Color Collective Class**  
**Saturday, February 27; 3:00pm-4:00pm**  
**Virtual Instructors: Leila Nelson and Adina Gittens-Smith**  
**Register for this event at <https://bit.ly/3ilzxec>**  
Belly Dancers of Color Collective was formed in 2015. This class will blend the traditional belly dance form with African, Caribbean dance styles.

**Musical Performance from ERHS Gospel Choir**  
**Sunday, February 28; 2:00pm**  
**<https://youtu.be/LYVPQz1Asks>**  
**Enjoy a Previously Recorded Performance**  
Under the direction of Michele Fowlin, the Eleanor Roosevelt Choir has performed for numerous political and social events throughout the DC Metropolitan Area.

**VISIT [WWW.GREENBELTMD.GOV/RECREATION](http://WWW.GREENBELTMD.GOV/RECREATION)**

**GREENBELT CARES**  
presents  
**THE TEEN DRAMA CLUB**  
**Dispute Resolution and Managing Anger**

**Online Class**  
**Mondays March 1– March 29**  
**5:00 pm – 6:15 pm, 5 Weeks**  
**Cost: Free - Earn Gift Cards for Participation**  
**Ages 13-18**

**ANGER**

**Contact us to Enroll: [cares@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:cares@greenbeltmd.gov)**  
**Certificates of completion awarded for participation in ALL Five sessions.**

**CONSIDER MAKING A DONATION TO ONE OF THE CITY'S CHARITABLE FUNDS**

Agency Funds are managed but not financed by the City. All donations to the funds are used for the listed charitable purposes. The City of Greenbelt receives no portion of these funds nor does it charge an administrative fee for processing the donations

**Funds include: Good Samaritan Fund, Emergency Assistance Fund, Greenbelt Recreation, and Advisory Committee on Education.**

**Find out more at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/donations](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/donations).**

You can also mail a money order or check to: City of Greenbelt, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770. Please notate which fund in the notes section of the check. You may also use the drop box on flag side of the building. Receipts will be provided and mailed out to you.

**GREENBELT RECREATION**  
2021 SPRING ACTIVITY GUIDE

Greenbelt Recreation  
[www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation)  
301-397-2200

**SPRING ACTIVITY GUIDE NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE!**  
Registration begins on Monday, February 22 for Greenbelt Residents  
Classes begin the week of March 22, 2021  
Check out our Spring 2021 Activity Guide available at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation) for more details!

Explore our Activity Guide for lots of options for all ages and interests. We offer seasonal special events and varied recreation facilities and classes to provide opportunities for community celebrations, a chance to learn something new or improve your skills in an activity you enjoy, all while socializing and staying active!

**FIT FAMILY HOUR**  
Register online for an hour of fit family fun! Families must sign up in advance and may choose a time slot at either the Greenbelt Youth Center or Springhill Lake Recreation Center.  
Families may register for up to three time slots per week. Fit Family Hour Fee: \$5; Please bring your own equipment.  
This program is reserved for Greenbelt residents.  
Please visit our Virtual Recreation Center online or give us a call for more information. Many thanks!

**WEED WARRIORS: Invasive Plant Pull**  
**Saturday, February 27th, 10:00am-1:00pm**  
**Buddy Attick Park, 555 Crescent Road**

Be a part of the community effort to remove invasive plant species from the environment at Buddy Attick Park. Volunteers will work with Public Works staff to remove invasive vines from native trees and to pull other invasive plant species. Masks will be required at all times.

Reminders:

- Bring a reusable water bottle
- Wear weather-appropriate clothing and closed-toe shoes
- Students: bring community-service forms
- Volunteers must register in order to participate
- Limited to 25 volunteers

To Register: Contact Environmental Coordinator Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll at [kdriscoll@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:kdriscoll@greenbeltmd.gov)

Get Internet FREE for 1 Year

**INTERNET ESSENTIALS**  
Internet Access (WiFi)

**No Credit Check & No Term Contract**  
**Incorporated Greenbelt Residents only.**  
Must participate in one or more of the following programs: WIC, SNAP (Food Stamps), VA Pension, Public Housing Assistance, NSLP/Head Start, TANF, Medicaid, LIHEAP Energy Assistance Program, Tribal Assistance Eligibility Letter.

- Due to COVID a Self-Installation Kit will be mailed to you
- NOTE: You must not be a current Comcast Internet Customer.

Spaces are limited -

**REGISTRATION BEGINS MARCH 1-MARCH 30**

Call Lena Enciso for more information and to register (240) 542-2031

**BILINGUAL CRISIS INTERVENTION COUNSELOR**

Full-time (40 hrs per week) Salary \$55,300/yr w/City benefits. Provide emergency, follow up and on-going counseling services to a diverse population of individuals and families in a supportive work environment. Monthly daytime on call duties and Wednesday evenings required. Fluency in Spanish required. During COVID pandemic, on going counseling services provided virtually. Requires Master's Degree in Social Work, Family Therapy, or Professional Counseling (or license eligible LGSW, LGMFT, LGPC). The City provides a generous fringe benefit package including medical, dental, life and retirement plans. To view the job class specification, summary of benefits and to apply, log onto [www.greenbeltmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov). A City of Greenbelt application is required. EOE ADA

**SEEKING LIFEGUARDS AND POOL MANAGERS!**

The Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center is now hiring lifeguards!

Apply now at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/jobs](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/jobs)



# Does the Farmers Market Really Hibernate in Winter?

by Cathie Meetre

Though the fields remain brown and sere through the winter months, much is silently going on beneath the soil. Winter preparations are essential to ensure that there will be blooms in spring and fruits in summer and fall.

Just like nature, the Greenbelt Farmers Market (GFM), though dormant to the naked eye, is readying itself for the new season. Secretary Anne Marigza is preparing for vendor applications in January and updating documentation and forms with the help of the board. President Terri Kucera is redesigning the website. Treasurer Cathie Meetre is doing taxes and buying insurance, and she and Board Member Carol McAdam are preparing to apply for approvals that must be obtained from the city and county. Vice President Carissa Ralbovsky is working on contact lists and preparations for administering food insecurity programs like SNAP. There's much to be done.

**Covid-19 Impacts**

Last year's market was heavily impacted by Covid-19. County regulations and GFM's own concern for safety forced a market design with fewer vendors (to observe spacing requirements), boundary taping, hand-sanitizing, one-way traffic and restrictions on the production and consumption of cooked foods. Despite this, many of the vendors had their best year ever at the market – perhaps because it felt like such a safe place to shop and because, though attendance was overall somewhat down, everybody who came was a shopper on a mission to buy.

**Food Insecurity**

The market of 2020 continued a steady increase in access to food insecurity programs, though whether this was a response to Covid-19 or a growing awareness of the program is impossible to determine. In these programs, shoppers eligible for subsidies purchase tokens with their SNAP cards that are then matched by state and federal funding to significantly increase buying power (the first \$10 of SNAP funds becomes \$30 of buying power). In 2017, its first SNAP season, the market administered \$355 of SNAP funding (excluding matching funds). Continuing a steady trend, this number rose to \$1,964 in 2020, even though incentives in the form of matching funds were lower in most of 2020 than previous years. Between 2017 and 2020, the market nearly quadrupled the number of unique families it served (from 13 to 45).

**Covid-19 Readiness**

The market has already made some recommendations to the county on easing restrictions in 2021. These include new spacing suggestions and suggesting that regulations like one-way traffic or on-site food consumption be relaxed as the Covid-19 situation improves rather than automatically being in force the entire season.

**Volunteers**

Last year's struggle for survival meant the market needed more volunteers per Sunday than has usually been the case. A non-Covid-19 Sunday uses eight to 10



Meghan of Dicot Farms inspects winter vegetables in a high tunnel.



Erik of Dicot Farms harvests chard in a long tunnel used to grow crops year round.

- Photos courtesy Dicot Farms

volunteers to staff the information booth, set up and take down the market's equipment and administer food insecurity programs. Last year, however, 14 to 16 volunteers were needed to fully staff all the roles although some regular volunteers needed to remain sheltered. Even with some new faces and many volunteers doing double duty in potentially hazardous public-facing roles, board members often filled empty slots. Board members, in addition to their administrative roles, take turns being assistant market master and their duties include filling empty volunteer slots.

**Funds**

Costs were also up with significant upticks for protective equipment, fencing and hand sanitizer and, with fewer vendors allowed, the fees that normally fund GFM's operations were down. Sponsorships also generally help sustain the market but restrictions on gathering to talk

meant the market sought no sponsors since their presence at the market invites conversation.

With costs up and income down, the market's reserves had to be tapped, though funds remain to cover 2021's start-up costs. The market has gratefully received a few generous contributions, but donations are always welcome.

**Winter Produce**

During winter, the market provides information on winter drops by market vendors who visit Greenbelt regularly. Several vendors make regular drops in town and the market maintains information about these.

For details on drops and information on volunteering or donating, go to [greenbeltfarmersmarket.org](http://greenbeltfarmersmarket.org) and get ready to sprout on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 9 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Congratulations  
Sylvia and Robert  
62 Years of Marriage

# Habitat Fragmentation Would Be Maglev Development Impact

by Nancy Bagwell

The maglev project would cause many kinds of habitat fragmentation. This article discusses the concept in general, with emphasis on forests. It analyzes how the fragmentation happens and its biological consequences.

Fragmentation happens when a once-continuous natural landscape becomes divided into small patches separated by gaps. Each patch becomes like a small island, isolated from the other patches.

One of the biological consequences of fragmentation is elimination, even extinction, of some species, especially rare or endangered ones that occur in only one or a few patches of suitable habitat – the type of habitat they have adapted to over a long evolutionary time.

Human disturbance can cause barriers to movement, so that some species that use different habitats for food and breeding cannot get from one to another, making them unable to meet their life-history requirements. What constitutes a barrier may be highly species specific. For some it may be a road. For others, it may be an edge of the patch.

Edge effects are numerous. Conditions in small patches, which have a high ratio of edge to interior area, tend to deteriorate for many reasons. First, increases in edge (transition from one habitat to another, e.g. forest to meadow) invites invasion of the patch by exotic or non-native species, which are plentiful.

Non-natives are weedy and they out-compete native plants. They can kill trees also, as in the case of English ivy.


Higher edge/interior ratios also threaten the nesting habitat of certain bird species. Ovenbirds and quail, for example, rest on the ground in secluded places with much leaf litter. Moreover, much edge in a patch invites predators like small mammals looking for eggs to eat. Edges also invite cowbirds, which lay their eggs in other birds' nests. The intruder chicks reduce the breeding success of the host.

Population size of species in small patches will decrease due to lack of gene recombination that produces heterozygotes, which protects against the hazards of homozygosity. Homozygosity increases the risk of inbreeding. There are good genetic reasons not to marry a relative.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) discusses adverse maglev impacts in forests, streams, parks and other areas. Environment resource impacts are summarized in DEIS Charts ES4.3-1 and ES 4.3-2 but more damaging detail is buried in Section 4, which has subchapters on wetlands, streams, groundwater, floodplains, parks etc. This report is online, but the Greenbelt maglev committee can also loan out a hard copy.

Reference: Principles of Conservation Biology (2nd edition) by Gary Meffe et al.





PRELIMINARY AGENDA

**GHI BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Thursday, March 4, 2021**

**A. GHI Special Open Session – starts at 7:00 p.m. (open to members and visitors)**

- Approve Motion to Hold Executive Session Meeting on March 4, 2021

**B. GHI Executive Session – starts after the GHI Special Open Session meeting adjourns (closed to members and visitors)**

- Approve Minutes of Executive Session Meeting held on February 4, 2021
- Contract for Repairs to a GHI unit - 2nd reading
- Letter from WSSC re: Replacement of Water Pipes for Masonry Units
- Contract for Waste Disposal – 1st reading.


**C. GHI Regular Open Session – starts at 7:45 p.m. (open to members and visitors)**

- Announcement of Executive Session Meeting Held on February 18, 2021
- Announcement of Executive Session Meeting Held on March 4, 2021
- Approve Minutes of Special Open Session Meeting Held on February 4, 2021
- Approve Minutes of Regular Open Session Meeting Held on February 4, 2021
- Proposed Extension of Current Contract with IT Services Provider by One Year – 2nd reading
- Request that the Board of Directors Reconsider the Removal of a Dawn Redwood Tree at 2-G Plateau Place
- Finance Committee's Recommendation re: Changes to the COVID-19 Fee Deferral Program
- Finance Committee's Recommendation re: Charges for Processing GHI Permits
- Homes Improvement Options for GHI Larger Homes

You may register in advance for this Zoom meeting on Mar 4, 2021 by accessing the following link:

<https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/JUqf-2vrDwoHN0gPyomeQlNDfohVxMjRrXR>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



To request a sign language interpreter for a board meeting, go to <http://www.ghi.coop/content/interpreter-request-form>, contact us by phone (301-474-4161) or fax (301-474-4006).

Regular Board meetings are open to Members

For more information, visit our website: [www.ghi.coop](http://www.ghi.coop)



# Neighbors Display Warm Hearts Toward Neighbors

by Jim Fischer and Susan Walker

The Greenbelt Interfaith Leadership Association continues to be grateful to everyone who has helped their neighbors during this pandemic crisis. Their actions prove that Greenbelt is a caring community. Greenbelt residents are needing help with past rent, overdue utilities and food on the table. Below is an update about where the crisis is now.

Although there was hope for additional federal help by now for people left unemployed by the pandemic, it may be months before that help arrives. In the meantime, Maryland has lifted the utilities moratorium. Energy utility companies have never seen such high overdue amounts; according to the Washington Post on February 7, \$251 million is owed by 400,000 Maryland homeowners. Utility companies are asking residents to contact them to set up payment plans or to seek available financial assistance.

**Utility and Rent Relief**

In Greenbelt, utility assistance (electricity, phone, internet, water and gas) is available through the Good Samaritan Fund administered by Greenbelt CARES; call 301-345-6660. The Greenbelt Community Foundation has generously added \$10,000 to this fund as have many individuals, but the money is being steadily disbursed.

Greenbelt’s Emergency Assistance Fund has helped dozens of families pay their rent, but the fund is now empty. Contact the Greenbelt City Council to urge the city to allocate \$50,000 (or more) to the Emergency Assistance Fund to deal with a growing backlog.

Eviction affects each family’s financial security, stability and emotional well-being. An eviction stays on one’s record for years.

Many landlords will not rent to families with even one eviction on their record, making it very difficult to find future housing. One’s credit score is also affected. It is a downward spiral. Everyone who can needs to open hearts and pockets to help prevent families from going through this crisis.

**Ways to Help Out**

There are several options available to those who wish to help. Consider donating, perhaps a stimulus check, to one of two Greenbelt funds, the Emergency Assistance Fund (eviction relief) and the Good Samaritan Fund (utility support) to help neighbors during this crisis. Make checks out to the City of Greenbelt, indicating the fund in the memo section, and mail to Greenbelt CARES, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770, or place the check in the secure drop box (outside the door facing the flagpoles) at that address. For those who wish to donate online, go to the charitable fund page on the City of Greenbelt website ([greenbeltnmd.gov/donations](http://greenbeltnmd.gov/donations)), fill out the form and contribute through PayPal or credit card.

Shoppers at the Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket can continue to donate \$5 food bags at the checkout or purchase supermarket gift cards (\$50 recommended) for the St. Hugh Food Pantry. Food donations can be placed in the pink bin and gift cards in the mail slot at the side rectory door of St. Hugh of Grenoble Church, 135 Crescent Road. The pantry received \$1,450 in gift cards and 119 food bags recently.

Giving to neighbors makes hearts feel good and helps to sustain the well-being of many families during a very anxious time.

*Susan Walker and Jim Fischer are members of the Greenbelt Interfaith Leadership Association.*

# Lab Technician Organizes Covid-19 Studies at NIH

by Amy Hansen

When Covid-19 hit in March of last year, many workers were sent home and their projects shut down, but Greenbelter Lynn Lambert is an essential worker at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and her job kicked into high gear. Lambert, a research support technician at the National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), had been working in the lab focused on a vaccine for malaria, but then Dr. Anthony Fauci told everyone to switch.

“He said that at our core, we are a public health service,” she said. “And anyone who could relate their research to Covid should work toward the vaccine.”

With that directive from Dr. Fauci, who is the head of NIAID, Lambert’s focus changed from exclusively on malaria to Covid-19 and malaria and many other cross-disciplinary disease studies.

“I help a lot of people with a lot of projects,” said Lambert. “I don’t always understand the science, but it is fascinating.”

First she assists scientists who need help with focusing their studies. Sometimes, scientists’ proposals do not match the realities of the laboratories. Lambert talks through the goals and the plans. “They tell me what they need and I tell them what we can do,” she said.

When the plan is approved, she becomes the manager. She makes sure physical laboratories are available. She reserves the enclosed laboratory hoods where samples can sit safely. She assesses how many mice will be given the trial vaccines and contacts the animal technicians who take the blood samples. She makes sure the machines that change the blood into serum are available at the right time, and so forth.



PHOTO COURTESY LYNN LAMBERT

Lynn Lambert

This is what she does for malaria studies too. “But now I schedule these studies so we can get information about the spiked virus,” she said, referring to the physical shape of the Covid-19 virus. “Spikes on the outside of the virus; that’s what everyone wants.”

Each of these studies is one piece of the puzzle, she explained. And each piece is disseminated so it can fit in with what other people are doing.

The researchers on the Covid-19 vaccine use information about other diseases including SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) and malaria. This cross-pollination of researchers is one of the reasons the Covid-19 vaccine was able to move so quickly, she said. “Normally, this would have been a 10-year period.”

Lambert has worked as a research support technician for over 30 years. During the pandemic, she is mostly working from home but occasionally goes into the NIAID campus in Bethesda. While she does not think her lab’s pace of work is sustainable in the long term, she is proud of the pieces of the puzzle that the lab has discovered.



PHOTO BY MARY LOU WILLIAMSON

Lenten roses are just beginning to bloom.

## Free Choral Black History Celebration

UM School of Music presents No Ways Tired: A Celebration of Black History Month on Sunday, February 28 at 7 p.m. on Vimeo. This free, one-hour performance by faculty, students and guest choirs will shine a light on history and promote racial justice, performing works by Black composers including spirituals, narration and poetry.

## Virtual Tours at the U.S. Botanic Garden

Though the U.S. Botanic Garden is closed to the public, virtual visits abound at [usbg.gov/take-virtual-tour](http://usbg.gov/take-virtual-tour). Enjoy extensive self-guided interactive tours, indoors and outdoors, videos with experts and photos capturing the variety and history of this national garden.

### LISTEN to the NEWS REVIEW

Visually impaired may listen for free  
Call Metropolitan Washington Ear  
301-681-6636

No special equipment needed



# A Mediterranean Diet is a Heart-Healthy Plan!

In Historic Roosevelt Center  
[www.greenbelt.coop](http://www.greenbelt.coop)

- Enjoy Daily: Vegetables, Fruits, Whole Grains, Healthy Fats
- Enjoy Daily: 1-2 Glasses of Red Wine, 10+ 8 oz. Glasses of Water
- Enjoy Weekly: Fish, Poultry, Beans, Eggs
- Enjoy in Moderation: Dairy Products, Red Meat



## SCHOOLS continued from page 1

through grade six, grade 12 and special education (pre-K through grade 12).

On April 15, Phase Two begins with hybrid learning for grades 7 through 11.

June 15 will be the last day for students and June 16 the last day for teachers.

Goldson also laid out the timeline for Spring athletics. On March 10, coaches will begin in-person after-school conditioning and workouts outdoors. On April 6, the sports season practices begin.

Goldson is committed to ensuring a safe and productive environment for all students and staff. She hoped that the hybrid approach will further meet the needs of all students, as the virtual approach has not been completely successful.

She emphasized that these have not been easy decisions, and that the school system has shown restraint in not rushing to reopen. Many factors went into the move



Greenbelt Middle School, shown before the shutdown

to a hybrid model, foremost was safety and the monitoring of a decline in local transmission numbers of Covid-19. She said that “now is the time to serve the community and students and do what’s right and safe in April.”

The PGCPSS website has the complete reopening plan, approved in August, available for reference.

The News Review reached out to ERHS teacher Patrick Gleason for a comment. Gleason, while acknowledging that students are desperately missing social interaction, stresses that with the current state of the virus “our reopen-

ing plan will not allow for the interaction they need.” He said he is “concerned about returning to a building with hundreds of others prematurely.” He praised the staff and the administration for their amazing and detailed approach to safety throughout the pandemic. Still, he favored continuing the virtual approach to the end of this school year as more logical from a public health standpoint, while noting that there was “too much pressure from the state for us to not open.” Gleason also recognizes the problematic challenge that the hybrid approach requires from teachers.

PHOTO BY AMY HANSEN

## CRIME continued from page 1

There was no change in violent crime in Greenbelt East.

In Beltway Plaza, overall crime was down 26 percent, attributable to its having been closed much of the year. But violent crime increased by 50 percent, while property crime was down by 48 percent.

At Metro, overall crime was up 40 percent, with two violent crimes reported but no change in property crime.

For Greenbelt Station, overall crime was up 53 percent, violent crime was down 100 percent and property crime was up 62 percent.

For the city as a whole, violent crimes increased 23 percent in 2020. Vehicle thefts were down 5 percent, and thefts were up about 4 percent.

“It’s not just us,” Bowers said, but the county as a whole. For example, homicide was up by 65 percent, and carjacking was up almost 70 percent in Prince George’s County. He added that Prince George’s County and Washington, D.C., have put out combined carjacking taskforces. Carjacking doubled around last May and has continued to rise.

Bowers said what they have been doing includes increased pa-

trol presence and deploying cameras in “hot spots.” They also encourage crime prevention. For example, one thing that has been happening in the cold weather, especially in Franklin Park, is that people are leaving their cars running while taking in groceries before they park, and the cars are stolen in what is called a “jump-in.” In one outreach effort police patrolled for merely one hour and stopped 15 drivers from leaving their cars unprotected.

Bowers said the key word in much of this behavior is “Covid.” People are at home, not working. Recreation facilities are closed. There is a big increase in juvenile offenders, and the schools are closed.

Councilmember Judith Davis said the economic situation is surely a factor too, as are the close quarters many people are living in, which might well contribute to increased domestic crime. Ultimately, opportunities for crime need somehow to be eliminated, such as items left in cars, or the cars themselves when left unlocked.

While the matter has not been solved, Councilmember Emmett Jordan said he thought the topic merited a worksession.

## VACCINE continued from page 1

### Governor Intervenes

On February 11, a press release from Maryland’s Governor Larry Hogan tacitly acknowledged the growing gap between Prince George’s and the rest of the state, but did not analyze the reasons. In bolstering distribution (rather than increasing vaccine share), however, the statement implies that county logistics are an issue.

Hogan said, “The Maryland Department of Health, in partnership with Prince George’s County leadership, continues to conduct direct outreach to sign up eligible county residents for the Six Flags America mass vaccination site as part of a multi-agency effort to boost vaccination rates in the county.” The state is using its call center to contact and schedule eligible individuals.

Hogan adds, “To date, this outreach to the county’s priority list has led to booking appointments by phone for nearly 900 residents at the Six Flags mass vaccination site. In addition, thousands of county residents have signed up for appointments online.” The Six Flags site, located on Route 214/Central Ave., is open to all state residents.

Describing actions taken in support of Prince George’s, Hogan listed the following: Maryland National Guard deployed its first vaccination support team, 50 volunteers from the Maryland Responds Medical Reserve Corps were assigned, and the retail pharmacy program was prioritized to expand the availability of vaccines.

Despite Hogan’s announcement nearly two weeks ago, there is no appreciable acceleration to be seen in county vaccinations and recent postponements for bad weather will only have exacerbated the lag.

### Short Supply?

The county, on the other hand, continues to point to lack of vaccine supplies as the culprit, though it admits to significant

issues with its rollout. For example, in a statement on February 13, County Executive Angela Alsobrooks identifies one county strategy that went astray due to that bane of IT professionals – human nature. She says, “Many people received a first dose but were unable to make a second dose appointment. Many were given a piece of paper at the time of their first appointment, which had a QR code or a link to visit. However, all of the appointments through those links were taken. This was because the personal link we provided to individuals to make a second appointment was shared widely.”

### Process Concerns

Rollout (not just in this county) continues to be marred by reliance on web-based sign-up without considering how to avoid instant tsunamis of applicants that overwhelm the system.

For example, an invitation sent on February 9 to those signed up with the Adventist hospital system gave a link to schedule an appointment from a newly opened tranche. Within moments of the email, the site was already overwhelmed and the link landed the seeker at an overflow site that encouraged them (contradictorily) to wait patiently to be redirected and to refresh their browser at regular intervals.

It seems likely that the Adventist system – far from prioritizing on the basis of age and comorbidity information, in

its possession from the registration process – had sent the link simultaneously to many times more recipients than their site could handle or for whom they had slots. It did not trickle out prioritized invitations in ratio to availability and capacity.

### Closer to Home

As the story in the issue of February 18 demonstrated, there unfortunately still remain many individuals in our community who are Priority 1A, over 75 (and even over 90) who have no vaccination in sight. As suggested in that story, those facile with computers and with time on their hands could consider checking with older friends whether they have been vaccinated and offer to assist them in navigating the electronic obstacles.



PHOTO BY PATTI STANGE

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# Police Blotter

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department, [www.greenbeltmd.gov/police](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/police)  
Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

**Home Invasion**  
February 15, 7:14 p.m., 161 Westway. Two men about to enter their home were approached by three other men, one of whom displayed a handgun. The three entered the residence and tied the residents up and allegedly assaulted one of them. The three men took money, a cell phone, house keys and a video game player, among other items.

**Unattended Child**  
February 16, 8:54 p.m., 5925 Cherrywood Terrace. A 26-year-old resident was arrested and charged with leaving a child unattended in a vehicle when officers responded to a report of two young children left in a vehicle with the engine running. She was released on citation pending trial.

**Carjacking**  
Two men approached a person who was parking his car. One implied he had a handgun and threatened the driver. Both men then entered the man’s blue 4-door 2005 Toyota Corolla with Maryland tags 4CE9350 and drove away.

**Theft**  
February 12, 5:33 p.m. 5821 Cherrywood Lane. A pink 9-mm semi-automatic handgun was taken from a residence.

A 17-year-old Greenbelt youth was arrested for theft and possession of a controlled prescription drug after officers responded to a report of a young person pulling on door handles of parked vehicles. He was found to be in possession of property taken from earlier thefts from vehicles and was released to a guardian pending action by the Juvenile Justice System.

**Vandalism**  
February 12, 5:04 p.m., 5:33 p.m., 9296 Edmonston Road. A television in a residence was vandalized.

February 14, noon, 153 Westway. The bedroom window of a residence was broken.

**Vehicle Crime**  
A 24-year-old nonresident was arrested and charged with motor vehicle theft and multiple traffic citations on February 14, when he was observed driving at a high rate of speed and a computer check revealed that the vehicle, a 2009 Mazda, had been reported stolen to the Metropolitan Police Department. The driver attempted to flee but crashed on Kenilworth Avenue near Sunnyside Road. He then exited the vehicle and ran but was apprehended after a short foot chase. He was transported to the Department of Corrections for a hearing before a district court commissioner.

Eleven vehicles were stolen, eight of them after they were left unattended with engines running and doors unlocked. There were witnesses to four thefts, who

gave vague descriptions of men in dark clothes. Reasons for leaving a vehicle unlocked are not known, except in one instance, when a woman returned to her residence to get something.

Two vehicles were stolen and recovered. A 2018 Kia Optima was recovered before it had been reported stolen to Prince George’s County Police. It had been set on fire. A Toyota Corolla was recovered the same day by the Metropolitan Police Department.

Tags were taken from the 5900 block Cherrywood Lane and 7200 block Hanover Parkway, the latter Maryland T041050. Four tires and rims were taken from each of four vehicles at 7710 Hanover Parkway, 7810 Walker Drive, and 7900 and 7905 Mandan Road. A catalytic converter was taken from 6015 Springhill Drive.

Thefts included a handicap placard that was taken after a window was broken. Vandalism included windows at 7801 Mandan Road being broken.

An attempted theft occurred at 9110 Springhill Lane when a man heard his car alarm sounding and went outside. He saw a man trying to steal stereo equipment from his vehicle. The man then walked away.

## Police Issue Alert for Jump-in Car Thefts

In the past week or so there have been several instances in which cars have been stolen after being left unlocked with the keys in the ignition and the engine running. This is much like handing the keys to the thief. It is against Maryland Motor Vehicle Law to leave a car unattended with the engine running and can result in a fine. This also includes push-button start vehicles, even if the person doesn’t keep the key in the car. Remote-starting systems are exempt.

**Shooting**  
On THursday, February 18, at approximately 6:36 p.m., in the parking lot of the CVS Pharmacy located at 7607 Greenbelt Road (Greenway Center), officers responded to a report of gunshots heard. Upon arrival, officers located physical evidence of gunshots having been fired; however, no victims were located at that time. A short time later, three gunshot victims were located at area hospitals. Through investigation it was determined that an altercation occurred involving the victims and three unknown suspects. The suspects fled the scene in an unknown vehicle. Anyone who witnessed this incident or may have information is asked to contact Greenbelt Police detectives at 240-542-2133.

## POLICE continued from page 1

Silvestri said that the process has been awaiting this opportunity for public comment before entering into negotiations with the FOP, whose general counsel, Patrick McAndrew, was also present and eager to hear feedback.

**Police Reform**  
Police reform was a major topic of the evening, especially as relates to police misconduct and how it should be handled and the use of body cameras. An essential component of this was the possible fate of the Law Enforcement’s Officers Bill of Rights (LEOBOR), within which many of these practices are codified and which applies to all sworn officers, including Greenbelt’s. Currently, LEOBOR is being debated in the state legislature with a possibility that it may be repealed. Yet, it was pointed out several times that even if that were to happen, there was a likelihood that Governor Larry Hogan would veto the bill and the statute would remain, at least until the next legislative session. If it is repealed, Silvestri said that any past LEOBOR policies would be negotiated by both the city and FOP as to whether they would remain in the CBA.

Most of the residents attending the hearing were strongly in favor of making any investigation of police misconduct a public concern and not a private, personnel issue within the Police Department itself. A related issue was the current practice of expunging records after three years, including past misconduct,

something resident Cynthia Newcomer judged as wrong and not equitable, in that such special treatment is not accorded to other city employees. This sentiment was echoed by most of the participants. Resident Jeff Harrison pointed out that LEOBOR requires a public administrative trial board hearing for misconduct that includes two non-police members. He urged that any future hearings be advertised and that non-police members be trained accordingly, as provided by LEOBOR.

The constant use of body cameras was also unanimously approved, as it accorded protection to both the public and the police, and was essential in any investigation of police misconduct.

Article 27 of the CBA places the hiring of a police chief solely in the hands of the city manager. This was universally opposed, with the preferred method employing the council, FOP and city manager working together.

**More Resident Views**  
Resident Claudia Jones felt that investigations of misconduct should not be public and that the expunging of records after three years should be retained.

Residents Ric Gordon and Katie Pugliese were keen to point out that while they wholeheartedly supported police reform, their stance was not the result of mistreatment at the hands of the Greenbelt Police. The aim was to put in place safeguards and policies that would hold officers accountable for misconduct in order to avoid a future tragedy, such as

the police shooting of Michael Brown in 2014 in Ferguson, Mo. Their opinion of the Greenbelt Police Department was high and respectful, especially for Chief Richard Bowers and Captain Tim White. Gordon extolled those officers who performed their jobs with justice and fairness and should be “celebrated.”

Resident Justin Baker noted that the Greenbelt Police Department is highly accredited with “no discernable record” of misconduct. He also felt that “defunding the police” often “backfires” and that perhaps a closer examination of the social causes of community unrest is the better strategy. He hoped that the new CBA would reflect that “police are here to help people.”

Resident Bob Rand was eager for more council support for the Greenbelt Fair and Just Justice Policing Act and the federal George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, both from 2020. He also felt that, as regards the deliberations of the CBA and the Fiscal Year 2022 budget, there was more of a need to incorporate “the guiding principle of police reform.”

For Gordon, who has been the victim of misconduct and profiling but not necessarily at the hands of Greenbelt officers, and resident LaWann Stribling, the experience of people of color is uniquely negative at times at the hands of law enforcement and requires addressing. Said Stribling, one must “understand the foundation” of this inequity, “recognize it and put it into law for it to be changed.”



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# Council Reports Its Positions On Maglev and Other Issues

by Diane Oberg

The Greenbelt City Council was in a communicative mood at its February 8 regular meeting, firing off communications regarding state legislation, maglev and a couple of coronavirus issues. In addition, Mayor Colin Byrd read a proclamation recognizing February 17, 2021, as a day of Random Acts of Kindness in Greenbelt.

### Vaccine

Council unanimously approved Councilmember Silke Pope’s motion to send a letter to the governor calling for a more effective means for residents to register for the coronavirus vaccine. She called the current registration process a nightmare with the registration site timing out before the required information can be entered or the site crashing. Councilmember Judith Davis noted that residents can call the county’s coronavirus hotline (311) to sign up by phone. Pope accepted Byrd’s suggestion to also send the letter to federal and county officials.

### Maglev

As suggested by Byrd, council approved a letter to be sent to U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg and the Federal Railway Administration stating the city’s opposition to the proposed maglev train. Council also approved Councilmember Emmett Jordan’s motion for staff to prepare for council’s review a letter asking the county and sister municipalities to partner with the city in funding the legal effort to oppose maglev. Director of Planning and Community Development Terri Hruby cautioned that expanding the scope of the work beyond the impact on the city could increase the legal costs beyond the estimated \$400,000.

Council also approved, without discussion, Davis’ suggestion to send a separate letter asking that the review period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement be extended to 180 days to allow adequate time to analyze the document and receive public comment.

### State Legislation

Going on record as supporting several pieces of state legislation, the council:

- Supported House Bill HB510 on a 6 to 1 vote with Councilmember Rodney Roberts opposed. The bill would establish the Office of Private Sector Transportation Projects Ombudsman within the state Department of Transportation. The ombudsman would respond to residents and local government entities regarding private transportation projects being developed or tested within the state. Roberts said his vote was based upon his opposition to public-private partnership projects.

- Unanimously opposed HB475. This bill would require that speed monitoring systems in school zones could only operate during the regular school year.

- Unanimously supported HB443/SB577 that would establish a pilot Makerspace Initiative Pilot Program in the Maryland Technology Development Corporation (MTDC) to encourage the establishment and expansion of makerspaces throughout the state and authorize the MTDC to award “certain financial assistance” to local governments. Davis noted that, although homeless, the Greenbelt MakerSpace still exists, as does the art space at Beltway Plaza.

- Unanimously supported SB154/HB18 which would establish that tenants with household incomes not greater than 50 percent of the median state income would have a right to counsel in evictions and establishes a Right to Counsel Evictions Coordinator to organize and direct services and resources to provide all covered individuals with access to legal representation. If approved, the bill would not take effect until October 2021.

- Unanimously supported SB387, which would require the State Highway Administration to install and maintain a crosswalk and curb ramps at intersections of state and local highways under some conditions.

- Voted 6 to 0 to support overriding Governor Larry Hogan’s veto of HB4/SB208 from the 2020 legislative session. Among other things the law would require background checks for private gun sales. Pope abstained.

- Voted 6 to 0 to support HB638/SB624 governing untraceable and undetectable firearms. Pope abstained.

### Recreation Center

Recreation Director Greg Varda reported that once coronavirus restrictions are lifted, the department intends to return to its pre-pandemic schedule. The department has taken advantage of CARES Act funding to renovate the Clubhouse at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center. In response to a question by Jordan, Varda said that the department will be allowing families to sign

up for the gym for an hour, followed by an hour for staff to clean.

Varda said that the department is keeping an eye on the impact of the new coronavirus variants. If the positivity rate stays down, he said, the department can consider hosting meetings at the center.

City Manager Nicole Ard noted that recreation staff have not yet been vaccinated.

### Other Actions

Council accepted the resignation of David West from the Senior Citizen Advisory Committee.

### Maglev Comments

The Maglev Draft Environmental Impact Statement is available for comments, which are due by April 22. Information can be found at [bwmaglev.info/index.php/project-documents/deis](http://bwmaglev.info/index.php/project-documents/deis).

Comments may be made online or by email following the instructions on the website and also in writing by mailing them to the attention of SCMAGLEV Project/Lauren Molesworth, Maryland Transit Administration, 6 St. Paul Street, Baltimore, MD 21202.



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Senior Living 55+ Community 2Br 2Ba condo w/fireplace & more! Remodeled w/new kitchen, modern baths, sunlit enclosed patio, new carpet & paint.

**SOLD** Cape Cod Home Investors - priced to sell! 3Br, 1.5Ba home with large fenced yard, dining rm., br & full bath on mn. lev. \$208,900

Estate Sale GHI 2 Bedroom townhome with hardwood floors, opened kitchen & breakfast bar. Large fenced backyard opens onto protected woodlands.

Brick Townhome with Addition Full bath on main level. Remodeled kitchen & bath. Central A/C, refinished hardwood flrs., shaded & fenced backyard.

Large floorplan w/addition Half bath on main level. Masonry townhome w/ fenced backyard & brick patio. Zoned HVAC system, 11' x 17' master br.

Cape Cod SFH 3br 2 1/2ba home with rem. Kitchen, above-ground pool & wrap-around deck. Finished basement with family room and office space.

Townhome with 2 additions 2 bedroom GHI home on fenced corner lot. Large fenced backyard, back, extra storage in front. Central HVAC.

**SOLD** 4 Bedroom 3 Level Townhome Master bedroom & full bath on main level. Opened remodeled kitchen, fireplace in lr. Backs to protected woodlands.

Townhome with addition 2 br townhome w/ front laundry/office addition. Opened kitchen, full bath, pantry. Fenced backyard with large deck.

Charlestowne Village Single-level 1-br condo in Greenbelt - no stairs! Parquet flooring throughout. Remodeled kit. With S/S appliances. \$149,900

Addition - Backs to Woodlands Completely remodeled throughout; half bath on main level. Central A/C system. Fenced yard, shed & raised deck.

**SOLD** Brick Townhome 2 Bedroom GHI townhome remodeled throughout. Modern kitchen with s/s dishwasher. Hardwood both levels. \$169,900

Upper Level One Bedroom GHI home with full-sized washer and dryer in separate laundry room. Refinished hardwood flooring throughout. Nice!

2 BR Townhome Remodeled GHI home w/ new carpet fresh paint & ceramic bath. Priced to sell at \$124,900

Your Greenbelt Specialists In Roosevelt Center



Black History

Remembering MLK

by Rick Ransom

During Black American History Month, I celebrate one of the greatest and most courageous Americans to walk across the stage of history during my life. You may not be familiar with the life of Martin Luther King, Jr., as he was gunned down in 1968, before many of you were born. But we all can be familiar with his work which benefited our society so greatly.

He became a minister at a time when racism had reduced those of a darker-hued skin color to, at best, second class citizenship and at worst a fate of servitude perpetuated by society, if not by the law. There was a lot of anger and many violent confrontations in which the white society prevailed with fire hoses, police dogs, police batons and Jim Crow laws designed to deny the Black community of even the right to vote, let alone live among whites like myself. However, they were greatly welcomed into the front lines in Vietnam and died by the thousands with their white counterparts fighting for a country that they could only hope would allow them better treatment upon their return. Funny how the Army did not discriminate as to whom they put into combat.

Dr. King advocated for non-violent demonstrations, including sit-ins, marches and work stoppages, depending on the situation. He preached that violence came from hatred and only served to stoke counter-violence. In effect, he wanted to shame whites into accepting that we are all humans and equal under God's eyes. His most famous speech included not hatred and a takeover by the Black community, but his dream that the "sons of slaves and the sons of slaveholders" would one day share the same table and eat the same meal as brothers.

His life was threatened many times and he was battered and jailed and followed by the FBI.

Even some in the Black community rejected his message of non-confrontation, feeling that a violent revolution was the only way to achieve true equality. He knew he was a target for those who wanted to stop efforts at granting Blacks equal status. Even so, he went to Memphis to support a strike and efforts to better the lives of sanitation workers through their union.

He was gunned down by a presumably hired killer on the balcony of his hotel room. (The white killer never revealed his motives or associates and died in prison.) King could have, at any time, saved his own life by simply walking away from the movement. But, he stated, "I'd rather die on my feet than live on my knees." There is no telling how many lives were spared, both Black and white, because of his calming and violence-averting stance.

I have benefited because I have been able to experience MLK's dream of a shared meal with at least a few of my African American brothers and sisters and have been allowed entrance into lives and a culture that is so rich with love and joy. Thank you MLK! The dream has not been fully recognized, but at least the Black community is in the conversation and is voting, much to the chagrin of some who would prefer they not.

It doesn't require courage to live in our society when you are a WASP (white, anglo-saxon protestant) like me. But for most in the African American community, just interacting in a casual way and living day-to-day can call for a personal commitment to persevere in the face of prejudice, both open and covert, that hampers their fulfillment of a full and happy life. My hat is off to them, but I must bow my head in honor of the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.



GAC Presents Play Concerning Inter-racial Friends in S. Africa

by Jon Gardner

Greenbelt Arts Center will present the recent South African play Solomon and Marion over the next two weekends, Saturdays and Sundays, February 27 and 28 and March 6 and 7.

Solomon and Marion is the story of the unlikely friendship between Marion Banning and Solomon Xaba. Marion is a white 63-year-old South African woman of English descent, whose will to live is diminished because she has lost her son and her husband. Solomon is a 19-year-old South African man of color from rural Xhosa.

"This play grabbed me the first time I read it," said Director Ann Lowe-Barrett. "We haven't heard much about South Africa in the news in recent years. I had thought that after apartheid things would be better in South Africa. I was very naïve. The scars and injuries inflicted by racism continue to cause pain and anguish, just as they do here in our own country.

This play speaks to that pain and anguish, and offers a plan for redemption: mutual respect between individuals, one on one."

She continued, "But this is no stiff morality play. It is full of crackling wit. We can relate to the characters, who engage us alternately with their wisdom and naïveté. I hope you enjoy watching it as much as I enjoyed directing it."

During Covid-19, the Greenbelt Arts Center is bringing online productions of important works to the residents of Greenbelt and the surrounding area. There is a suggested donation for viewing the show. Online viewing will be available at [greenbeltartscenter.org](http://greenbeltartscenter.org) anytime between 9 a.m. and 11 p.m. on performance days. There will be a live talkback with the playwright, Lara Foot Newton, on Sunday, February 28 at 2:30 p.m.

*Jon Gardner is on the Board of Greenbelt Arts Center.*

Black History

Female RE-Enactors Portray Civil War Era Life Stories

by Brittany N. Gaddy



The Female RE-Enactors of Distinction is a group of women who teach American history, focusing on the people that have been forgotten or overlooked.



RE-Enactors perform as forgotten historical figures for FREED, a Black History Month event sponsored by Greenbelt Recreation on Sunday, February 21.

African American women of the Civil War era were portrayed by Female RE-Enactors of Distinction (FREED) Sunday in a virtual presentation, which was planned by the Greenbelt Black History and Culture Committee.

"This is an opportunity to spotlight their challenges and contributions to American society," said FREED coordinator Patricia Tyson. The actresses dressed in Civil War period clothing and told the life stories of historical figures through re-enactments and dramatic readings.

Lavonda Broadnax portrayed Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, an activist and writer who advocated for women's suffrage and an end to slavery. Ruby Brown-Thomas portrayed Amanda Berry Smith, an evangelist and missionary, and Tyson portrayed Hallie Quinn Brown, an elocutionist who promoted the Colored Women's League of Washington, D.C.

"Telling the stories of these historical women through re-enactments is something that catches everybody's attention, no matter their age," Tyson said. She added that the re-enactments are an "educational experience that really does the job of giving people an idea of what the mission was and who that person was that the actress is portraying."

Greenbelt resident Joyce Bailey is a member of FREED with a personal connection to the history of that era. She said that she is a descendant of an African American Civil War soldier.

Bailey's favorite part of being in the group is providing new information for young people that they have no knowledge of, stating that "It's important, especially for our young people, that they know the contributions that

were made throughout the Civil War period by people of African descent." According to Tyson, the group's mission is to "educate the public and to promote the accomplishments of the African American Civil War soldiers and the women who supported their fight for freedom."

The volunteer group was formed in 2005 after planning meetings for the African American Civil War Museum's Founder's Day celebration. The women decided they could contribute to the celebration by being hostesses dressed as women from the Civil War period. Since the group's founding, the women have performed in a variety of venues, including schools, churches and government agencies.

The presentation by FREED was one event in a series of events throughout February to celebrate Black History Month. Committee co-chairs Lois Rosado and Leeann Irwin spearheaded the planning of the events, which were made in collaboration with

the Greenbelt Recreation Department.

Irwin said she discovered FREED years ago when it performed for an event at the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site. Irwin went on to say "they were great actors, and so I really had the sense of being with these people from another time, whose lives were interesting [and] whose lives were difficult." Rosado stressed the importance of Greenbelt recognizing Black History Month adding "too much of the history and contributions of African American people have been omitted and left out of the history of this country."

Tyson remarked, "People think they have arrived and they have the answers to everything and they have no idea who came before them [making] a foundation that they might build on."

*Brittany N. Gaddy is a University of Maryland journalism student writing for the News Review.*



A solar array behind the Greenbelt Homes Inc. administration complex complements the solar panels installed on the roof. See story in December 17, 2020 issue of the News Review.